Low credit deposit ratio in the eastern and north eastern region

2747. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what factors are responsible for the low credit deposit ratio in the eastern and north eastern regions; and

(b) what concrete steps are being taken to improve the situation there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) According to a Study conducted by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) the factors responsible for low credit: deposit ratio in the Eastern and North-Eastern Regions can be broadly categorised as follows:— (i) low credit absorption capacity; (ii) high level of industrial sickness; (iii) unsatisfactory industrial climate; (iv) lack of uninterrupted supply of power to industries; (b) unsatisfactory backward and forward linkages.

(b) Credit deployment by banks in various States is monitored by State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBCs). RBI has reported that NABARD jointly with RBI appointed a Committee on agricultural productivity in Eastern India and constituted a Study Group to review the position of credit: deposit ratio in North-Eastern Region. The reports of the Committee and Study Group were also sent to State Governments for implementation of their recommendations.

Para-military forces in Tripura

2748. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of armed and para-military forces in terms of companies, at present, stationed in Tripura; and

(b) the number of clashes and encounters that had taken place between them and the Tripura National volunteers during the period from 29th January, 1988 to 10th March, 1988?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The maximum possible assistance to Tripura has been provided by the Central Government by way of deployment of para-military forces. It will not be in the public interest to disclose the strength of para-military forces stationed in Tripura at present.

(b) Only two encounters took place between CRPF and TNV extremists during the period from 29.1.88 to 10.3.88. No casualty had occurred on either side.

Tax relief to tea industry in Assam

2749. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for giving tax relief to tea industry in Assam so that a good amount of profit earned by the industry may be ploughed back to the rejuvination of tea gardens and modernisation of machines and equipments which are by and large old and outdated resulting in low production; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal under Indirect Taxes.

Under Direct Taxes, a suggestion from the Ministry of Commerce was received to make a provision in the Income Tax Act to provide an incentive for investment in the Tea Industry. The suggestion has been examined and the same has not been found justified as the existing tax concessions available to the tea industry under section 32 AB and section 33 A of the Income Tax Act, are considered as adequate.

Setting up of headquarters of Brahmaputra Board

2750. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for the setting up of the headquarters of the Brahmaputra Board and its hydraulic research centre at Bashistha and North Guwahati; and

(b) if so, by when the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Office of the Brahmaputra Board has been already shifted to Bashistha. Action for setting up the Hydraulic Research Laboratory has been initiated by the Board with target to complete the work by March, 1992.

Expenditure on Sarkaria Commission

2751. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the expenditure incurred on the Sarkaria Commission during its functioning for a period of five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): The expenditure incurred on the Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State Relations upto February, 1988 amounted to Rs. 150.61 lakhs.

Setting up of Tea Authority of India

2752. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for the setting up of Tea Authority of India; and

(b) if so, by when the proposal is going to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Exemption of duty on rotable snorkels imported by Delhi Fire Service

2753. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 50 metres high rotable snorkels imported by Delhi Fire Service are lying at Bombay Port for the last three months;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a request for 120 per cent duty exemption on the purchase has been received;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) what decision has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (e) The Delhi Fire Service themselves filed with Bombay Customs the necessary Bill of Entry for the clea-